Prices of Drugs and Medicines

1314. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which ap-peared in *the Indian Express* of 24th October, 1991 captioned 'Government plays truant cop as drug prices soar';

(b) whether it is a fact that Government has failed on may accounts regarding prices of drugs and medicines;

(c) if so, the reasons thereon;

(d) whether it is a fact that Government have failed to reduce the consumer prices after bringing down the prices of drugs;

(e) what are the names of drugs where consumer prices have not fixed despite the fact that bulk drug prices were reduced;

(f) whether it is also a fact that Government have violated its own procedure and guidelines in sanctioning price increases;

(g) if so, the details thereof; and

(h) whether Government have taken any steps to prosecute the producers of Combiflam, Magadol and Analftam Tablets for violations of provisions of Price Control Order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) aand (b) Sir, Government has seen the news item captioned 'Government plays truant cop as drug prices soar', which appeared in *Indian Express* on 24-10-1991. It is not correct to say that the Government has failed to regulate prices. However, in a situation of rising costs of inputs, change in exchange rate of rupees etc., corresponding amount of increase in the prices of medicines is inevitable.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) and (e) The requisite information has already been furnished in reply to parts (b) to (d) of R.S.U.S. Question No. 673 answered on 28-11-1991.

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise.

(h) In the case of Combiflam Tablets, a tentative amount of Rs. 7.11 crores was worked out as over charged amount and the company concerned was asked to deposit the same with the Government. However, the company obtained interim stay from the Calcutta High Court which has been since vacated. The company has been given a final opportunity to deposit the said amount.

As regards Magadol and Analflam tablets, the matter is under active consideration.

Location of Head Office and Undertaking Office of Namrup Fertilizer Producing Unit

1315. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Fertilizer Producing Namrup unit has its head office in New Delhi and its marketing office at Calcutta; and

(b) whether Government propose to bring the Head Office and the marketing office at the factory site in Assam to obviate inconvenience caused by their separation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN): (a) Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) has three Fertilizer producing units at Durgapur, Barauni and Namrup, besides a project at Haldia, Namrup is one of the units of H.F.C. whose Head Office is in New Delhi, with marketing office at Calcutta.

(b) There is no such proposal.